

ATTACHMENT 1

USSR HOME SERVICE

April 18, 1955

USSR TO OPPOSE NEAR EAST BLOCS IN U.N.

Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Apr. 16, 1955, 1800 GMT--L

(Statement by the USSR Foreign Ministry on Security in the Near and Middle East)

(Text)

Recently the situation in this Near and Middle East has been considerably exacerbated. This is connected with the fact that certain Western Powers have made new attempts to involve the countries of the Near and Middle East in military groupings which are being created as appendages to the aggressive North Atlantic Bloc.

After the fiasco in 1951 of the plan for creating a so-called "Middle East Command," owing to the resistance which this plan met on the part of the countries of the Near and Middle East, the United States and Britain took measures calculated to involve in a devious manner, singly or two at a time, the countries of the Near and Middle East in this or that grouping created under their domination. In this way, in 1954 a Turko-Pakistani Pact was concluded, and in February 1955—the Turko-Iraqi military alliance.

By creating the Turko-Iraqi military alliance, its organizers succeeded in tearing Iraq away from other Arab countries and in exacerbating the relations between these countries, which is of advantage only to the aggressive forces which are striving to create dissension among the countries of this area for their military strategic interests.

Things have gone so far that demands in the form of ultimatums have been made on Syria that she join the Turko-Iraqi alliance. These demands are being accompanied by threats calculated to intimidate the Government and people of Syria and to force Syria to change her position of non-participation in aggressive military blocs.

Actions of this nature and the role allotted by the Western Powers to Turkey in the creation of military blocs in the Near and Middle East evoke legitimate fears in Arab countries that Turkey is again striving to achieve domination over them, and that a direct threat is being created to their national independence.

Considerable pressure is also being exercised on Egypt, and it is demanded that she change her negative attitude toward the Turko-Iraqi bloc and not support Syria, which is showing resistance to foreign pressure.

Similar demands are being made on Saudi Arabia which, together with Egypt and Syria, is coming forward against the participation of Arab countries in military blocs imposed by the Western Powers.

Since recently, Iran has also been subjected to increasing pressure and is being pushed onto a dangerous path by the organizers of these blocs.

It is not difficult to see that at the basis of the policy of creating military groupings in the Near and Middle East, as well as the creation of an aggressive military grouping in Southeast Asia, the so-called SEATO, lies the endeavor to achieve colonial enslavement of these countries by certain Western Powers. In order to enrich their big monopolies, the Western Powers wish also to continue to exploit the peoples of the Near and Middle East, exploiting in a rapacious manner the natural riches of these countries.

Being unable to establish and preserve their domination by old methods, these Powers are trying to involve the countries of the Near and Middle East in aggressive blocs under the mendacious excuse that this allegedly answers the defense needs of the countries of this area. Military blocs in the Near and Middle East are needed not by the countries of this area, but by these aggressive American circles which are trying to establish their domination in this area. They are also needed by those British circles which are trying, by means of these blocs, to maintain and restore their shaky positions which are contrary to the vital interests of the peoples of the Near and Middle East, which have entered the path of independent national development.

The organizers of these military blocs do not, in fact, conceal that they are pursuing their own definite military strategic aims. This is evident from statements by official representatives of the United States and Britain to the effect that these Western Powers regard the aforementioned blocs as part of the plan for creating the so-called "northern tier" of their military system. This is also demonstrated the fact that by Britain has joined the Turko-Iraqi alliance, with the simultaneous conclusion of a new Anglo-Iraqi agreement on so-called "mutual collaboration," which enslaves Iraq in a new form, insures for Britain the maintenance of her military bases in that country, and places the Iraqi Army under British officers.

Plans for the creation of aggressive blocs in the area of the Near and Middle East have nothing in common with the interests of maintaining peace and security or with the genuine national interests of the countries of that area. These plans demonstrate once again that the policy of the Western Powers toward the countries of the Near and Middle East continues, as heretofore, to be directed toward the political and economic subjugation of these countries to the imperialist Powers, which are trying once again to impose on the peoples of these countries the yoke of colonial oppression and exploitation.

In this connection no account is taken of the fact that the days of colonial domination and enslavement of the peoples of the East cannot be brought back. The countries of the Near and Middle East are now faced by the danger of losing their independence and of being involved in war for interests alien to them. It is therefore easy to understand that political circles of these countries have started to realize this danger more and more clearly. It is also easy to understand the growing resistance with which the peoples of the Near and Middle East meet attempts of foreign Powers to impose on them participation in aggressive military groupings.

Even if the ruling circles of certain Arab countries are docilely following the lead of the organizers of these groupings, this merely shows how remote they are from expressing the genuine national interests of their peoples.

As has already happened more than once in the past, attempts are also being made now to cover up the aggressive character of the plans of the United States and Britain in the Near and Middle East by insane inventions about "the Soviet threat" to the countries of this area.

Such inventions have nothing in common with reality, seeing that as the basis of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, as is known, lies the unchangeable endeavor to insure peace between peoples on the basis of observance of the principles of equality of rights, noninterference in internal affairs, respect for national independence, and State sovereignty.

The Soviet State, from the first days of its existence, has resolutely condemned the policy of imperialist aggression and colonial oppression, and annulled all the unequal treaties which had been concluded by the Tsarist Government with the countries of the East. Fully understanding and sympathizing with the national aspirations of the peoples of the East, the Soviet Government was the first to recognize the independence of Afghanistan and to give it support in the restoration of its State sovereignty.

The Soviet Government rescinded the unequal treaties of the Tsarist Government with Iran and handed over to that country great things of value which used to belong to Russia in Iran.

In the years of the Turkey's difficult struggle for its national independence, the Soviet Union extended to Turkey the hand of friendship and afforded comprehensive help which played a decisive role in the struggle of the Turkish people against foreign interventionists.

The Soviet Government was the first to recognize Saudi Arabia as an independent State. It supported the struggle of Yemen for national independence, also that of Syria and the Lebanon, and the just demands of Egypt for the withdrawal of foreign troops from her territory.

The Soviet Government invariably supports in international organizations the lawful demands of the countries of the Near and Middle East aimed at consolidating their national independence and State sovereignty.

The Soviet Union has been steadfastly pursuing and continues to pursue a policy of peace and of easing international tension. This is notably demonstrated by its proposal to stop the armaments race, ban the atom and hydrogen weapons, effect an immediate and substantial reduction in armaments—in the armaments of the five Great Powers in the first place—and to create a system of collective security in Europe.

It is perfectly clear that such a policy of the Soviet Union, which meets with the profound sympathy and support of the peoples, fully corresponds to the basic national interests of the countries of the Near and Middle East and the interests of maintaining international peace.

A threat to the security of the countries of the Near and Middle East does in fact exist, but it comes not from the Soviet Union but from those Powers which under the excuse of "insuring security" are creating aggressive blocs in the Near and Middle East, striving to bring the countries of this area down to the level of their military strategic place d'armes and in the economic sphere to the position of colonies and dependent territories.

It goes without saying that the Soviet Union cannot be indifferent to the situation which is being created in the area of the Near and Middle East, seeing that the creation of the aforementioned blocs and the setting up of foreign military bases on the territory of countries of the Near and Middle East is directly related to the security of the USSR. Such an attitude of the Soviet Government should be all the more intelligible since the USSR is situated in the immediate vicinity of these countries, which cannot be said of other foreign powers, for instance the United States, which is situated thousands of kilometers away from this area.

The nonparticipation of countries of the Near and Middle East in aggressive military blocs would be an important preliminary condition to insuring their security and the best guarantee against the involvement of these countries in dangerous military adventures.

Striving to develop peaceful collaboration between all countries, the Soviet Government is ready to support and develop collaboration with countries of the Near and Middle East in the interests of strengthening peace in this area.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR stated, in its declaration of Feb. 9, 1955, that it attaches exceptional importance to relations between States, large and small, basing such on such international principles as correspond to the interests of developing friendly collaboration between peoples in conditions of a peaceful undisturbed life.

The Soviet Union considers that relations between States and genuine security can be insured on the basis of the practical application of the well-known principles set forth in the aforementioned declaration, namely, equality, noninterference in internal affairs, nonaggression, refraining

from attempts directed against the territorial integrity of other States, and respect for sovereignty and national independence.

The Government of the Soviet Union will adopt a positive attitude toward any steps on the part of the Governments of the countries of the Near and Middle East aimed at the implementation of these principles in mutual relations between them and the USSR, the strengthening of the national independence of these countries, and the consolidation of peace and friendly collaboration between peoples.

If the policy of pressure and threats if [sic] continued toward the countries of the Near and Middle East, this question will have to be considered in the United Nations. The Soviet Government, supporting the cause of peace, will defend the freedom, independence and non-interference in internal affairs, of States of the Near and Middle East.

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